

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, ICAO

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: ICAO U.S. CANDIDACY FOR SECRETARY GENERAL

REF: OTTAWA 671

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES FULL REPORT REFTEL OF EMBASSY'S
CONVERSATIONS REGARDING DILLON CANDIDACY. WE AGREE WITH
EXTAFF DIRECTOR ROBERTSON'S OBSERVATION THAT ICAO SEC.GEN.
SHOULD HAVE ABILITY TO PROVOKE HIGH DEGREE OF EMPATHY FROM
COUNCIL MEMBERS. MRS. DILLON'S ABILITY TO WORK WELL AND
CLOSELY WITH OTHERS AND AT THE SAME TIME TO EVOKE THE BEST
PERFORMANCE FROM THEM, WAS AMONG THE DECIDING FACTORS IN
OUR DECISION TO PUT FORWARD HER CANDIDACY. CERTAINLY HER
MANAGERIAL TALENTS WOULD BE INVALUABLE IN SUCH ICAO PROBLEMS
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AS THOSE POSED BY IMPENDING BANKRUPTCY OF ICAO BUILDING

OWNER. AS TO QUESTION OF MRS. DILLON'S COMPETENCE FOR THE JOB, USG IS CONVINCED SHE HAS ESSENTIAL EXPERTISE REQUIRED. FYI: HER BACKGROUND IS GREATER THAN THAT OF CANADIAN PERMREP BEDARD, REPORTED REFTEL AS HAVING BEEN CONSIDERED AS POSSIBLE CANADIAN CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB. END FYI.

2. WE WERE PLEASED THAT AMBASSADOR RECEIVED FAVORABLE IMPRESSION FROM TRANSPORT MINISTER OTTO LANG (OTTAWA 718).

WE HOPE CANADIANS WILL QUICKLY COME TO DECISION TO SUPPORT DILLON CANDIDACY-

3. INFORMATION CONTAINED IN STATE 38849 AND WHO'S WHO ENTRY ON MRS. DILLON'S EDUCATION IS COMPLETE.

4. CANADIAN FEELINGS ABOUT FAO ELECTION (PARA 2E REFTEL) NOT SURPRISING IN VIEW OF THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT BUT ALSO NOT REPEAT NOT JUSTIFIED BY EVENTS WHICH TRANSPIRED DURING NOVEMBER 1975 CONFERENCE ELECTION OF FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL. U.S. DEL THAT SESSION RECOMMENDED IT BE INSTRUCTED SUPPORT CANADIAN CANDIDATE HOPPER ON FIRST BALLOT BECAUSE OF TRADITIONAL TIES WITH CANADA AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE OF HOPPER. DEL FURTHER REQUESTED THAT IF HOPPER HAD SIGNIFICANTLY LESS VOTES THAN OTHER CANDIDATES ON FIRST BALLOT, I.E., GAP OF 15-20 VOTES FROM LEADER, DELEGATION BE GIVEN ADVANCE AUTHORITY TO SUPPORT CANDIDATE HAVING BEST CHANCE ON SECOND AND IF NECESSARY SUBSEQUENT BALLOTS. TELEGRAPHIC INSTRUCTIONS TO THIS EFFECT WERE GIVEN DELEGATION.

5. AS REPORTED IN PARAS 4-6 ROME'S 16329, WHICH YOU MAY INDEED DRAW UPON, FIRST BALLOT RESULT WAS HOPPER TWENTYEIGHT (28) VOTES, SAOUMA OF LEBANON SIXTY-TWO (62) VOTES. WITH MORE THAN TWICE THE VOTES GIVEN HOPPER, SAOUMA WAS ONLY FOUR (4) VOTES FROM VICTORY ON FIRST BALLOT. POLISH CANDIDATE WHO RECEIVED SEVEN (7) VOTES THEN WITHDREW IN FAVOR OF SAOUMA AND ASKED OTHER EASTERN EUROPEANS ALSO TO SUPPORT THE LEBANESE. AFTER FULL REVIEW OF SITUATION DURING LUNCH BREAK DELEGATION CONCLUDED THAT HOPPER NO LONGER HAD A REASONABLE CHANCE AND EXERCISED AUTHORITY GRANTED IT AND INFORMED SAOUMA, HOPPER AND A THIRD CANDID-
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ATE AQUINO THAT U.S. WOULD VOTE FOR SAOUMA ON SECOND BALLOT. WHILE THIS DECISION DISPLEASED CANADIANS, DELEGATION HAD CONCLUDED HOPPER HAD NO CHANCE OF PREVENTING SAOUMA FROM OBTAINING ADDITIONAL FOUR VOTES HE REQUIRED ON SECOND BALLOT. TO DATE NO COUNTRY, WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF CANADA, HAS MAINTAINED THAT THIS CONCLUSION WAS INCORRECT.

6. IN SHORT THERE IS NO BASIS FOR CANADIAN CRITICISM OF THE U.S. ACTION. FURTHERMORE, THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR ATTRIBUTING U.S. DECISION TO CERTAIN PERSONALITIES ON THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE FAO CONFERENCE AS THE U.S. DELEGATION OPERATED AT ALL TIMES UNDER CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON. WITH THEIR PROMINENCE IN THE INTERNATIONAL FIELD CANADIANS OBVIOUSLY WERE DISAPPOINTED OVER HOPPER'S SHOWING AND THEY WERE SHOCKED THAT SAOUMA DID SO WELL. THIS MIS-READING OF EVENTS WAS EMBARRASSING TO THEM IN NOVEMBER AND APPARENTLY CONTINUES TO DATE. REFTTEL MAKES

CLEAR U.S. SUPPLIED ALL REQUESTED OF IT PRIOR TO RESULTS FIRST BALLOT WHICH MADE CONTINUED SUPPORT INADVISABLE AND UNPRODUCTIVE.

7. CANADIAN VIEWS (PARA 2F) OF POSSIBLE U.S. SUPPORT FOR VOGEL'S CANDIDACY FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORSHIP OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM AS A BALANCE TO THE DILLON CANDIDACY, REFLECT A SLIGHT MIXING OF APPLES AND ORANGES. WHILE THE WFP POST IS A JOINT APPOINTMENT OF THE UN SYG AND THE FAO DG WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT SAOUMA IS NOT INCLINED TO MAKE THIS APPOINTMENT FROM ANY OF THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL NATIONS. WOULD BE USEFUL KNOW IF CANADIANS HAVE RECEIVED SIMILAR IMPRESSION.

8. EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON ANY OF FOREGOING AS IT DEEMS APPROPRIATE IN CONVERSATIONS WITH GOC. INGERSOLL

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